

The Paraphrase of Erasmus of Ro terodamie vpon the Seconde Epistle of John.

The clore to the electe lady and her espous, when I loue the church is not I only, The man
but also all that haue knowen the church, for the churche that dwelleth in vs and shall
be in vs for euer. With vs shall be grace, mercie, and peace from god the father, and from the
Lorde Jesu Christ the sonne of the father, in muche a liss. I saye to you all, that I loue
as my chyldren all kynges and cōscessions, as we haue receaved a commandement of the father. This
now before this lady, not as thoughe I wolde a chyld commandemente wroth her, but that
time whiche we haue had from the beginninge, that we shoulde loue one another. And this is the
liss, that we shoulde wylle all vs the commandement. This commandement is that as ye haue
heard from the beginninge, we shoulde loue one another. For many deceyters are come into the world,
whiche contynen that xesus Christ is come in the world. This is a deceyter and an enemyn
whiche haue comysled us to lose us that we haue wylled, but that we may haue a bad rememb
re. holowere transgredeth a dyctator in the doctrine of Christ, harbe not vs. for that re
dueth in the doctrine of Christ, both both the father + the sonne, if therre come any euill man,
+ bring not this lisseng, hem accuse not to house, neither bid him god speche. I saye that vs
with him god speche, is preistesse of his euillnes. Wherefore, I haue tolde you before, if we shoulde
not be shamed in the day of the Lord. if god may shewe to write vpon you, membrisfesse. I
shoulde not wylle with paper a pynctur. I trust to come vpon you, and I speake wylle you shoulde
to myn, that ourt liss maye be full. The lisses of the chyld spes grete the dawis.



John being an elder mylde vnto the electe lady, and to
her sonnes also, whome I loue sincerely, neither haue I
thus alone, but al that are with me whiche haue knowen
the church of the Gospelle: neither haue they loue them
for any other cause, but that they understande the syn
cerite of the Gospelles profission, whiche we folowe, to
remayne in vs, and shall remayne in vs for euermore.
Grace, mercie, and peace be alwayes increased from

God the father, and from the Lorde Jesu Christe, vnto you that perstet
vntill in the truthe of the Gospelles doctrine, and in mutuall loue one to an
other. I was wonderfullly glad, whan I perceaved that thy sonnes follow
ing theyr mothers godlynes, contynued vntill in the truthe of the Gospelles
doctrine, and not gaue herkenyng vnto false doctours, that goe about to
turne many awaie from it: whiche the father gaue vs thys in comande
ment, that we shoulde geue eare to the doctrine of hys sonne, and that we
shoulde not goe our of his stede. Therfore it is no nede nowe, abyte,
for me to instructe thy godlynes with new commaundementes: only let vs
continue vntill in that, whiche was beliuered from the begynninge, that we
shoulde loue eche other with a mutuall and a true Christian loue. But
this beneuolence, the content and all oon facion of godly life amounge oure
selues must procure: that we may lyue in all one purposed studis after the
commaundement of God, whiche enloued vs nothing so diligently, as mure
at one amounge oure selues. There is no true loue amounge the wicked, nor
among them that be of vnlise facion. Therfore I geue no new comma
ndement, but I geue you warninge diligently, to continue vntill in that, whiche

The paraphrase of Erasmus upon the ii. epistle

you haue already receaued longe a gye, and not to suffre yowre selues by any subtilesies of the false prophete to be plucked awaye. for in dede there are manye deceauers in the worlde, whiche denye that Jesus is Christ, whiche shoulde come into the worlde accordinge to the prophete's prophe- cienges. he that teacheth thus, is a deceauer, and Antichriste him self, Christes aduersarie. Let every one take heed to hym selfe, truthe if he forlaketh that whiche he hath well begonne; he loseth all the frute of those thinges, whiche he haue hitherto doone well: but let vs geue diligence, that we may receue the full byre, which happeneth not, but to them that perseuer shal vse the ende. who foruer forswaereth from the truthe, and abydethe not shal in the doctrine of Christe, he is estrangelied also from God the father, in that he forswaereth from the sonne. but he that constauntly followeth his doctrine, is to his so doinge, heartely beloued both unto the father and to the sonne. The one soule neyther he had nor forsaken, without the other. This is the true doctrine, whiche yow haue receaued of true recorde beauteours from the be- gynnyng. but if any man come unto you, and bringeth a contrary doctrine to this, to rarye you away from the Gospelles veritie, you ought not onely to take no heed unto him, but also he ought not so muche as be admittid unto your house if he bylyne lodgynge: not to be bidden, God speare, if he chasice to mete you in the way. for it is daunger lest he infecte the household with his familiarie: and for his lodgynge, require an euill churche: and ffre of bid- ding hym God speare, there arise communicalion. And in dede euil communica- tio corrupteth good maners. To be shoure, he that saluteth and kepereth com- pany with such a master deceauour, he semeth to be a companyon of his euill dooings. for he gryeth a contayng unto the wicked, when he seeth him selfe any whit regarded with them, whome he goeth aboue to subuerte: and gryeth an ouerwarde shewe of euill unto other, as though he semed to fawnt the euenghernes of hym, whiche familiarie he doeth not abhorte. There were many other thinges, whiche I was desyrous to wryte unto you concerning these matters; howbeit I had rather open them to you pre- sentlye, than to put them in wryting: for I truste shortly to come see

you and talke with you presentely in myrto to mourthe, that the Joy,

whiche I haue conuaied of yowre constaunte syncretie, maye

be more plentuous and full, when I shall bothe pic-

sentlye see in you, that which now bringe aboue. I

hearte of you: and you againe shall see with your

eyrs the loue that I braye towarde you.

Thy nephewes, thy sisters sonnes,

whiche is a christian iomen

comend them vnto the.

(+)

Cherche of the seconde epistle of
Polt.